



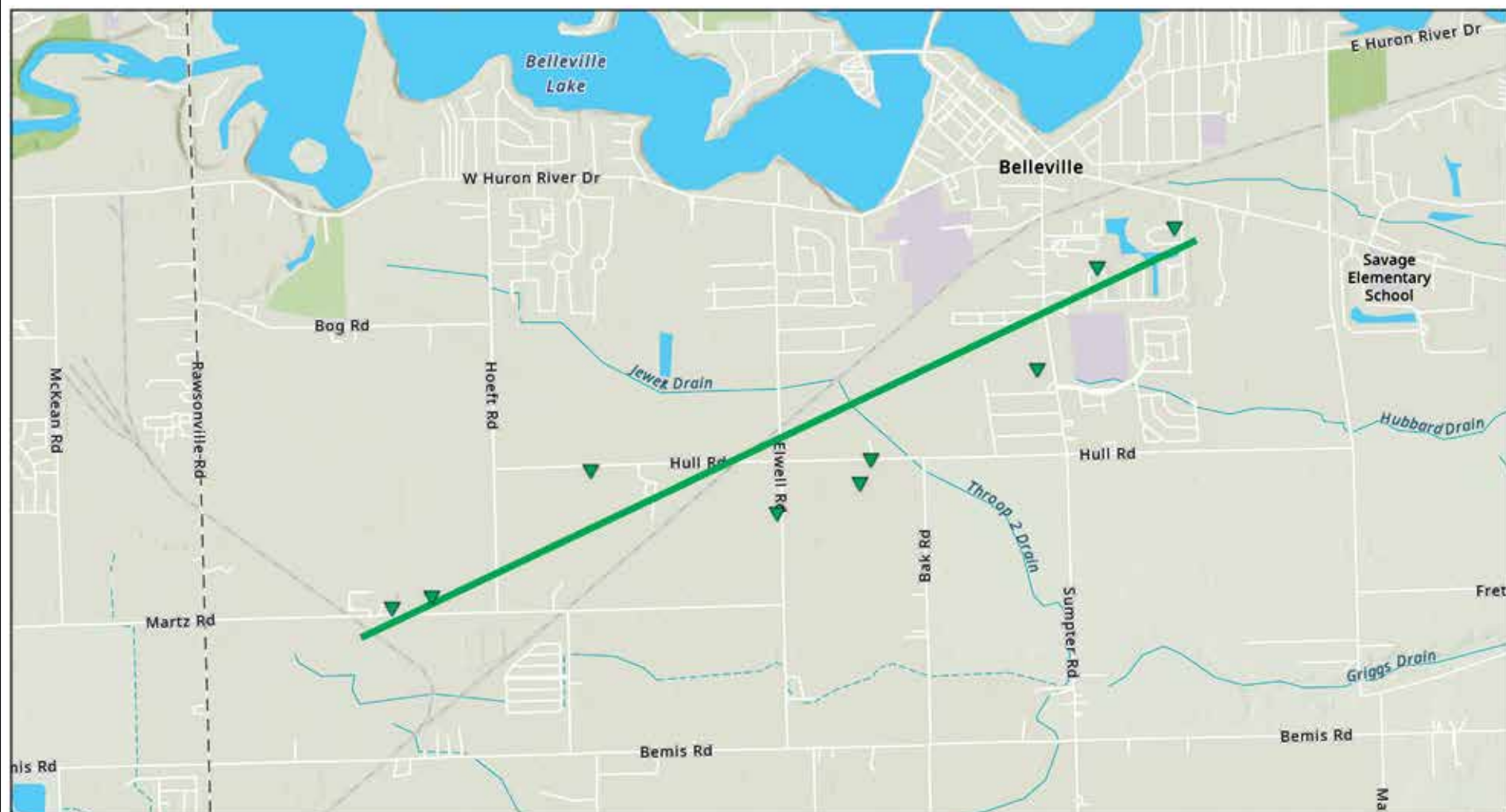
BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.16 Thursday, April 16, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

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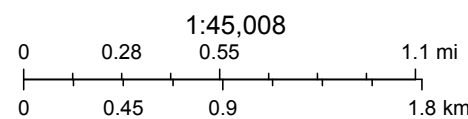
April 4, 2026 Tornado Track



4/13/2026, 8:42:24 AM

Damage Viewer - Damage Points SDE Damage Viewer - Damage Lines SDE

- EF1
- EF0
- EF1
- CWA



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

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Map courtesy of National Weather Service

This is the path of the tornado that traveled 3.2 miles, from 5:46 to 5:50 p.m. April 4 at about 48 mph across Van Buren Township and the city of Belleville. It all started when a cold front tracked across southeast Michigan during the late afternoon-early evening hours of April 4, leading to two lines of thunderstorms each producing pockets of damage south of I-94. Despite weak instability, the strongest cells were able to capitalize on low level wind shear near the intersection of the warm front and marine boundary layer, leading to rotation along the line. Storm surveys were conducted in both Whiteford Township (Monroe County) and Van Buren Township (Wayne County). The Monroe County cell was determined to be straight-line wind damage due to a divergent pattern. The Wayne County cell was determined to be an EF-1 tornado based on the damage pattern, radar data, and video evidence. This system also produced heavy rain with widespread storm totals of 1-to-3 inches and localized reports up to 4 inches. This event followed a wet pattern that occurred through the days prior, with widespread 5-day rainfall totals of 3-to-5 inches across much of lower Michigan.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Courtesy of Van Buren Township, Fishbeck Engineers/Architects, and landscape architects Grissim Metz Andriese Associates.

VBT approves \$1.097 M, plus, for Lakeside Park architecture, eng.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A new Lakeside Park on the former DNR property north of the Belleville Bridge in on track, with bidding set for fall and a final vote scheduled after that for the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

At the township's regular board meeting on April 7, the board approved spending \$1,097,200 for an architectural engineering design contract with Fishbeck Engineering.

Another \$352,400 was approved for a construction administration contract with Fishbeck to do bidding and oversee construction of the park, but that won't go into effect unless the board approves construction after it gets the final costs following bidding.

A construction management contract was approved, but no amount available until after bidding because it will be a percent of the construction cost.

Elizabeth Renaud, director of community services, laid out the project's timeline at the meeting, from the original purchase of the property from the Department of Natural Resources in 2017, to a conceptual plan in 2018, and acquisition of the deed in 2019.

She said the township focused on the community center from 2019-24 and now is concentrating on the Lake Park. The park was put into the master plan in 2021.

Environmental studies were begun in 2025, along with public and board engagement.

Renaud said the project includes 110 parking spaces, two major buildings (one with a catering kitchen, restrooms, and meeting rooms), a boardwalk, playground area with a small splash pad, and a central sculpture plaza.

Renaud said supervisor Kevin McNamara said he wanted it to be "a cooler version of Tim Horton's" as a place to hang out,

"nothing against Tim Horton's," she added.

She showed renditions of the proposed construction.

Supervisor McNamara said there was \$3.5 million in the budget for the project. He said if the cost is more than that, the project will be put aside to wait as a "shovel-ready" project and grants will be sought.

In other business at the April 7 meeting, the board:

- Approved the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan as a part of the township's official plans. The fire chief is charged with supervising the implementation of the plan;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Helen Wylie, Mary Korgel, and Delores Hogan to the Senior Endowment Committee with terms to expire Feb. 2, 2028;

- Heard trustee Kevin Martin read a proclamation signed by the supervisor recognizing Worker's Memorial Day;

- Approved having Fisbeck do a study of the township's existing EQ Basin and approved a Letter of Understanding with Panattoni, the developer, to pay in advance the cost of not to exceed \$130,300. McNamara said since water is to be stored on site at the data center before being released at a certain rate into the South Huron Valley Utility Authority sewer system, this is to assure another location if more space is needed during wet conditions. He said the EQ Basin was built before his time and the township never used it. He said it will be nice to bring it up to standards so it could be used if ever needed;

- Approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance amendment to change the maximum cul-de-sac length in site condominium developments from 1,200 feet to 600 feet. Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, said

the planners were concerned about having fire trucks have room to turn around, as well as the safety of the residents. The length will match other cul-de-sac length requirements in other ordinances;

- Approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance amendment on car wash developments, in response to the moratorium on car washes put in effect by the boards. This updated ordinance changes "car wash" to "vehicle wash", requires a designated drying lane, and keeps vehicle washes at least a half-mile from each other. Because of the overlay district vehicle washes are no longer allowed on Belleville Road north of Tyler. Such developments who have already filed with the township are not affected by this change;

- Approved paying an amount not to exceed \$69,950 to Fishbeck Engineers for professional engineering services related to the Haggery Subdivision Sidewalk Ramp Replacement. McNamara said the replacements will be paid for with the \$412,500 Community Development Block Grant the township received. "We're getting real lucky in grants," he said. The project is expected to be done by the end of the year; and

- Heard remarks from five members of the audience, all with negative statements on the data center plans and the township's "catering to corporate greed." One charged the board with not following appropriate protocol.



O P I N I O N S

MPA Editorial:

'Local News Day' -- Local news matters

By John Hiner, president
Michigan Press Association

I started my journalism career with a typewriter, a notebook and a pretty basic motivation: I wanted to know what was happening in my community, and why.

The typewriter is long gone, replaced by technologies I couldn't have imagined back then. But across Michigan, the curiosity and commitment that brought many of us into journalism in the first place are still there. So is the unshakeable belief that local news matters.

Today is the inaugural Local News Day, a nationwide observance of the role local journalism plays in communities big and small. It's a great opportunity to focus on what this work is really about.

Local journalism helps people understand what's happening around them so they can make informed decisions. That's not a partisan idea.

Everyone benefits from accurate reporting on schools, roads, public safety, taxes, local businesses and the decisions made at city hall and the state Capitol. Communities with strong local news tend to be more connected, more transparent and better prepared to solve problems.

Local reporters show up to meetings most residents can't or don't attend. They dig up records, break down complicated issues and hold institutions accountable. It's often unglamorous and routine work, but it's foundational to civic life.

(continued on page 5)

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Mark your calendar for a special event the *Independent* will be having at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 7, at the Belleville Area District Library's Cozadd Rooms. It's all about local newspapers. Wayne State University associate professor Hayg Oshagan will speak on local newspapers and the effects of the media on perceptions and framing debates. All of our readers who show up can tell us what they want to see in their local paper.

The *Independent* is in the process of converting from a for-profit paper, as we have been for going on 31 years, into a not-for-profit paper, so we can get grants and tax-free donations from well-wishers to stay afloat.

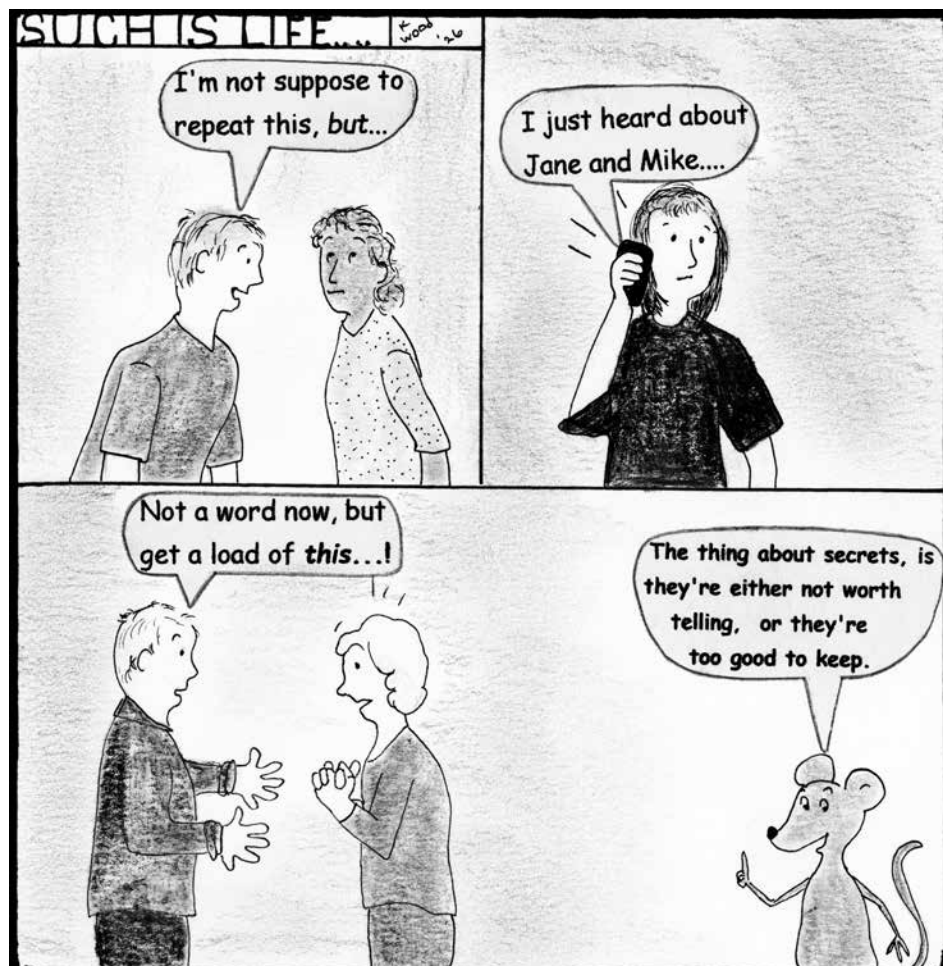
About a year ago, we were getting ready to hang it all up and close the paper because we couldn't sustain it with dwindling advertising, mostly due to social media and people thinking they could get their local news in other ways.

But, a group of people convinced that we need a local paper here wanted to give the non-profit avenue a try and that's what we are doing. This meeting in the library is a step in that direction.

We do want to know what our readers want to see in their local paper. We'll listen to you – face to face. We'll provide more information about the May 7 event in the coming papers.

Chick-fil-A moved some dirt around, but it didn't officially break ground on April 7 as we reported in last week's paper. We had an eye witness to the dirt moving. At a Van Buren Township planning commission meeting the next day, after the *Independent* was already on the presses, we learned that Chick-fil-A had to get one more approval before it could

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



start construction on its new restaurant on Belleville Road in front of Menard's.

A father of young children said he saw a Washtenaw County SWAT team with weapons drawn raid the house next door to him on West Columbia Avenue in the city of Belleville at about 3 p.m., April 8. This is near Belleville High School.

He said the couple who lived in the house were seated on the grass in front of the house while the team searched, apparently with a search warrant. After a search, they came out and went away. No arrests. The couple's children who often live at that address weren't home.

The young father said he was glad the high school hadn't dismissed yet because the drawn guns could have been a problem for the students. The father said it was a problem for him with his kids next door to the drawn guns. He said he would like to know what that was all about, but there weren't any Belleville officers on the scene. I tried to call the Belleville police chief, but she hasn't returned my call.

Washtenaw Metro SWAT told me it was not involved in this incident.

Van Buren Township police were dispatched at about 8 a.m. Monday, April 6, for a suicidal man who incurred a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the 14000 block of Haggerty Road. When they got there, he was deceased, according to police chief Jason Wright.

Neighbors on Savage Road said there were

about six police cars racing down Savage Road toward Haggerty and they wondered what that was all about.

There's a lot of things going on that you can learn about in your local paper. Let us know your questions.

Things are moving right along for the planned demolition of Haggerty Elementary School. The last time someone asked about the fate of the school at a school board meeting, the superintendent said it had not been determined "at this time."

But then last fall the school's bond information for voters included making Haggerty School into a school bus garage and moving the warehouse from Sumpter Road to Haggerty. It was never discussed in public on whether this was a good idea. Maybe board members discussed it privately. Someone made the decision and now things are rushing right along.

In a few weeks the building is expected to be gone and construction of something that's never been shown to the public at a school board meeting will be going up. We're told they will show drawings to the public before too long.

We're disappointed there has not been more transparency.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper
published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Rosemary K. Otzman

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The annual *Mayor's Ball* for 2026 is coming up quick, at your local Belleville Yacht Club, on Saturday April 25.

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ing Friends of Michigan
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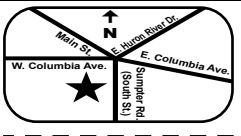
dogs by janet ~ Belleville

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Editorial

(continued from page 4)

And it's getting harder to do. Since 2005, roughly 60% of local reporting jobs nationwide have disappeared. Fewer journalists are covering more ground, even as the issues facing communities grow more complex and consequential.

Local journalism also depends on public trust and a shared understanding of how credible news is produced. Media literacy matters. When people can separate verified reporting from rumor or misinformation, public debate improves. When they understand how journalists verify information and correct mistakes, confidence in responsible news organizations grows.

There are real threats to independent journalism that should concern people across the political spectrum. Reporters increasingly face harassment in public for doing their jobs. Weak transparency laws make it harder to see how decisions are made. The use of regulatory pressure or lawsuits to discourage reporting has affected the public's right to know.

There's also a growing movement around the country to shift public and legal notices out of newspapers and onto government websites. That would make essential information harder to find — especially in rural communities — and further distance citizens from watching how their elected officials actually do their jobs.

Local News Day isn't just a celebration. It's a reminder that sustaining local journalism is a shared responsibility. Subscribing, advertising, reading critically and engaging civically all matter. So does standing up for transparency laws, press freedoms and media-literacy education.

Local news isn't about ideology or technology. It's about dedicated, professional journalists serving their neighbors with reliable, verified information. On Local News Day — and every day — that mission deserves recognition and support.

John Hiner is the president of MLive Media Group, which includes eight community newspapers and the MLive.com digital news company.

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Letters

Democratic Club sets Annual Chili Cookoff

Greetings All and Happy Spring!

The Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club cordially invites you and your family to our Annual Chili Cook-Off, Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, 10871 Quirk Rd., Belleville. Enter the chili competition for \$20 per pot, or come and judge the chili for just \$10, which includes an opportunity to cast your vote for the best chili in southwestern Wayne County along with a hot dog, chips, dessert, and beverage and lots of laughs.

We will host our traditional raffle and silent auction. Tickets can be purchased online at the following link: <https://donorbox.org/swdc-chili-cook-off> Tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, please call President Don Boynton, Jr. at 248-561-0886 or Debbie Chamberlain at 734-634-3569.

Come on out and join us for some excellent chili tasting, lots of great fun, and good fellowship!

Hope to see you there.

Debbie Chamberlain
Correspondence Secretary
Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club

Belleville does not need a round-about anywhere

To the editor:

Belleville does not need a round-about anywhere. I believe stop signs at Five Points and Main and Third streets would keep traffic moving.

Steve Ford
Belleville

Birthdays

April 12 – Catherine Johnson
April 18 – Anthony Kuchta, Sr.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Aaron Lange is congratulated by members of the school board at Monday's meeting. He had been named Division 3 Coach of the Year.

School district prepares to tear down Haggerty Elementary School

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board approved putting up a fence that is part permanent and part temporary as the district moves forward in the demolition of Haggerty Elementary School.

It approved the base bid of \$79,854 from RMD Holdings, LTD, of Richmond, MI, doing business as Nationwide Construction Group, low bidder of three. RMD was also low bidder for two additional proposed alternates bringing the total project to \$98,619.

Base bid from Davenport Brothers Construction was \$170,850 and Future Fence Company was \$102,430.

Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran Realpoint

said they will start installing the fence the week of April 27 and begin work on abatement and demolition the first week in May.

Kakoczki said as part of the new Operations Building site, they identified the need to secure the property in advance of abatement and demolition.

Permanent fencing will be installed in select areas where it will not be impacted by construction, while temporary fencing will be used around the primary construction zones to maintain safety and site security, he said.

He said once site work is complete and the building is enclosed, temporary fencing will be removed and the remaining

(continued on page 7)

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Obituaries



Carolyn Joan Himes

CAROLYN JOAN HIMES

May 4, 1948 – April 13, 2026

Carolyn Joan Himes, age 77, long-time resident of Belleville, MI passed away peacefully in her sleep, early Monday morning on April 13, 2026 with cancer.

She was born on May 4, 1948, in Lynch, KY daughter of Willard and Ethel (Wilson) Henegar. During high school she met the love of her life, Joe Himes while ice skating in the Metro Park, in Belleville, MI. Shortly after high school they married and began their lives together. Carolyn retired as part of the Quality Network Team as an Executive with General Motors. She was always an active member of a church. While in Belleville they attended Bethany Bible Church and after retirement in Bainbridge, GA at Fellowship Baptist Church. One of her outreaches included her love of tea and the Victorian Era, but her greatest love was for her family. Always capturing the memories. Mrs. Himes was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joe (William Joseph) Himes Jr. of 53 years. Also preceded in death by her parents and brother, Howard Henegar.

She is survived by her children, Renae (Andy) Branham of Belleville, MI, and Carolyn-Jo (Rob) Tiszai of Seguin, TX; her grandchildren, Shane, Aaron (Derek), Shelby Branham, Robert, and Moriah Tiszai. Her great-grandchildren, Mason, Kamryn, Hazel, TJ, Rylee, Trenton, Jax, and Skye, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The latest chapter of Carolyn's creativity was written at Glacier Hills in Ann Arbor, Mi. where she was an active resident for the last five years. Carolyn's drawings and paintings can be found hanging throughout the Manor. Countless works of her art adorn the walls of the Art Cafe and the Studio at Glacier Hills. Carolyn's friends and family proudly display her art throughout their homes. She was truly an inspiration and bright light to everyone who came in contact with her. Carolyn passionately supported St. Jude's Children's Hospital. To honor her memory in lieu of flowers please consider donations to St. Jude. Envelopes will be provided in the chapel. A visitation has been planned for Thursday April 16, 2026, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, from 4 p.m. until the time of service of 6 p.m. with Pastor John Losen Jr. officiating. Burial will take place on Friday April 17, 2026, with a procession lineup at 11 a.m. at the funeral home and head to Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, MI for a 12 p.m. entombment.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, April 20 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 21 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.

• Wednesday, April 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

• Monday, April 27 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

• Tuesday, April 28 – Sumpter Township, 6 p.m.

• Monday, May 4 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, May 5 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.

• Monday, May 11 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

• Tuesday, May 12 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, May 13 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

School Board

(continued from page 6)

permanent fencing will be installed.

The cost of that new permanent fencing will be a part of a new contract for construction.

The board also was presented with the information on Haggerty School hazardous materials abatement and demolition of the building.

Kakoczki said there were 16 bids for the work and the team reviewing the bids recommended Thomas Trucking Services, for both abatement and demolition. Thomas was low bidder on both, as well as an alternative.

Kakoczki said there is a tunnel under the school for pipes and it is known to contain asbestos. He said the plan is to demolish the school and then get into the tunnels for abatement. He said after abatement, they plan to remove the first three inches of soil and take it to a hazardous waste landfill, and if it is still contaminated, they will take off another three inches and then another three inches after that, if necessary.

He said the removal of the soil would cost \$25,000 for each three inches, for a total of \$75,000 if needed.

He said it is expected to take a month for abatement and the demolition would be in June.

The school board will vote on this at its next meeting.

Reg Ion, grandfather of a student, tried to ask questions from the audience during the presentation but School Supt. Pete Kudlak cut him off and said he had to fill out a card before he could speak under public comment.

Ion took a card to the board table and later he was allowed to comment.

Ion, who retired from the district as head custodian, said abatement and demolition shouldn't be from the same firm because that might lead to problems. Also, he said, the district had prepared a book for each school showing what hazardous materials are in the buildings. The district should look at the book for Haggerty, he said.

Ion stressed, "Normally, they don't do it right," he said of hazardous waste removal.

Ion also asked what is in the building and anything inside should be put up for auction or sale to the taxpayers. He said that when Belleville High School was demolished, people saw desks and chairs and other school equipment shoved into dumpsters. He said that shouldn't happen with Haggerty School and the items should

be offered to the taxpayers.

Supt. Kudlak's answer to Ion was, "I'll give you a call."

In other business at the 55-minute meeting on April 13 the board:

• Honored coaches and a few students in the BHS winter sports program;

• Approved sale of the 2026 School Building and Site Bonds, series 1, approved by voters, to R. Seelaus & Co., LLC, which was one of nine bidders. Seelaus offered a purchase price of \$24,999,224.81, the par value of the bonds, plus an original issue premium of \$662,200.70, less the Underwriter's discount of \$97,941.24, less the original discount of \$240,034.65. The bonds shall be issued at \$24,675,000 and put into the capital projects fund. Now the bond transaction will go to its closing;

• Approved spending \$254,830 from the '26-'27 Sinking Funds for 850 student Chromebooks from Shei Computing. These Chromebooks are for incoming fifth graders at Owen Intermediate School and incoming freshmen at Belleville High School. Supt Kudlak said they got \$100 off each Chromebook if they acted before a certain date;

• Received information on the BHS HS4 Security Access Control project that will be voted on at the next board meeting. Total cost is \$1,198,839. Kakoczki said that there were only two bids, one for installation by Laforce at \$1,790,979 and one from Osier Electric at \$1,875 for the electrical hookups. This will be completed from May through August and it is part of the bond program already in the budget;

• Approved the retirements of Owen special education teacher Debbie Gerst after 21 years of service; BHS math teacher Rachel Jager after 26 years; Savage teacher/media specialist Pamela Bradley after 28 years; and Edgemont teacher/art teacher Kathleen Hiner after three years;

• Approved the resignations of BHS history teacher Patrick Burrage after three years of service and Early Childhood Center teacher Molly Stevens after less than a year;

• Approved the employment of speech pathologist Courtney Schweers at Tyler Elementary School as of May 11;

• Approved the terminations of McBride food service worker LaLexus Woodard-Rumbley after 1.5 years of service and Rawsonville paraprofessional Tonya Charlesworth after three years of service;

• Approved the retirement of BHS food service worker Yevonne Hochbaum after

(continued on page 9)

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Musings
By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



It is time you learned more about our local Girlstown. Guiding Harbor will be holding a Tea & Tour on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at River of Life Church, 16650 Sumpter Road. You will enjoy tea and light refreshments and at 1 p.m. will go to Girlstown on Quirk Road for a tour of the facility. Girlstown Residential Program provides safety, stability, structure, and support for girls impacted by foster care. Your attendance helps strengthen programs that empower young women to heal, grow, and thrive. This is more than an event. It is a celebration of resilience. It is community in action. It is hope made visible. Tickets are on sale now by calling Davon Mann at (734) 263-1864 or email her at dmann@guidingharbor.org

Don't forget the next opportunity to be a charter member of the new Belleville Area Lions Club. The Monday, April 20, at 6 p.m. meeting with the Canton Lions Club will be an excellent time to learn more and meet with members of the Canton community. Since they meet at Rose's Italian Restaurant that is just the frosting on the cake – love Roses!

The very popular Legacy Five will be in concert at Bethany Bible Church, E. Huron River Drive, on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m. They have shared their talents with the community for many years and we are glad to see the tradition continuing. Tickets are available on their website: www.bethanybiblechurch.org

Okay, let's recap of where we are with openings: Red Rooster is open for pick-up only but that could change any day, Camping World is open. Tractor Supply is open with a ribbon cutting on the 18th, Belleville has moved into its new city hall just waiting now for the open house, and the new Mexican restaurant has moved into the Bayou Grill (I think they are keeping the alligator!).

Here is the short list we are still waiting for: opening the Denton Road Bridge, getting Liberty Street finished, opening Chick-fil-A, finding out what will happen with the old hardware store and what Meritage Hospitality Group will do with the old Twisted Rooster building in front of Meijer. I'm sure I am missing something on this list – oh well!

Do you have an item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

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Spring Has Sprung!

‘Belleville Three’ returns to Belleville area for Diamondback show

By Alvis Brigris
Belleville

In a homecoming that bridges the gap between the birth of a genre and the future of electronic music, “The Belleville Three” (Juan Atkins, Derrick May, and Kevin Saunderson) announce a one-night-only historic performance at the Diamondback Music Hall.

It is scheduled for Friday, May 22, at Diamondback at 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township. VIP entry is at 6:30 p.m., with press and fan question-and-answer session and meet-and-greet at 7 p.m. General admission doors open at 8 p.m.

This event, titled “The Origins,” marks a symbolic return to the soil where three teenage friends from Belleville High School transformed the pulse of the Motor City into a global phenomenon.

Known respectively as the Originator, the Innovator, and the Elevator, Atkins, May, and Saunderson are credited with inventing Detroit Techno, a sound that synthesized the mechanical soul of post-industrial Detroit with futuristic electronic textures.

While the trio has graced the stages of the world’s most prestigious festivals, this once-in-a-lifetime throwback DJ set performance at the Diamondback represents a rare, intimate look at their historical contributions

to music and collective chemistry.

The event is grounded in a commitment to the local community, with 10% of all gross ticket revenue donated directly to the Belleville Robotics Club to support the next generation of technical innovators.

“Coming back to Belleville means everything to us,” said Kevin Saunderson, aka The Elevator, of The Belleville Three, “This is where I learned discipline through sports and developed the mindset that carried me around the world. Being able to return home and share that journey with the community that shaped me is truly special.”

“One of the coolest things that’s ever happened in Belleville is the invention of techno music by The Belleville Three,” said city of Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt, “Having them return for a concert here is an outstanding opportunity to celebrate one of the many things that makes our community special.”

Tickets are available across multiple tiers from \$60 to \$150. Tickets can be purchased via the Diamondback Music Hall website at www.diamondbackmusichall.com. Other information on Diamondback is available at info@diamondbackmusichall.com.

School Board

(continued from page 7)

10 years of service and the resignations of BHS paraprofessional Mary Leake after seven years, building and grounds worker Harley Severin after eight years, and Rawsonville student support worker Willie Allen after two years;

- Approved the employment of buildings and grounds custodians Liberty Bennett and Krista Morelia, McBride secretary-221 day Damita Brown, and McBride food service worker Daniel Colquitt; and

- Heard parent Angela Mears remind everyone of the April 22, 10 a.m. to midnight, fundraising day at Hungry Howie’s Pizza, 10784 Belleville Rd., to benefit the Class of 2026’s party after graduation. You need to mention you are supporting this fund raiser.

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Lisha Lewis seeks votes to become Ms. Michigan Corporate America

Lisha Lewis of Van Buren Township is asking for votes for the "Audience Choice Award" as she seeks to become Ms. Michigan Corporate America in the state competition on April 25 in Troy.

She has been confirmed as a contestant representing Van Buren Township in the Ms. Michigan Corporate America 2026 competition, with a platform centered on empowerment, community advancement, and amplifying the voices of those she serves.

Lewis rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, earned by only 2% of women in the Air Force. She dedicated 34 years to military service, including a year-long combat tour in Afghanistan and deployments across more than 13 countries.

In her final assignment, she served as base human resource advisor to the general commander, focusing on retention, professional development, and strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force.

After retiring from active duty, Lewis served in the Air Force Reserve and Michigan National Guard. She graduated



from the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts, became a senior sales and marketing account manager for Detroit's largest broadcast company for 15 years, and earned degrees in logistics and business management.

She later served over 22 years as a logistics manager for the Department of Defense, before transitioning full-time into entrepreneurship.

Lewis is connected to her community as an active church member and mother to two sons, Brandon and Joseph, and grandmother to Journee.

"It's 'Audience Choice Award' time," she said this week. "Please support my journey to become the next Ms. Michigan Corporate America, and cast your votes for me."

To vote, you can log onto: <https://dempsi.com/vote.php?ID-D5002>; or go to her social pages on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or YouTube; or text her at (734) 604-5882 and she'll send you a link. She said you can vote from anywhere in the world.

The public is invited to attend the state competition in person at the Michigan State University Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Rd., Troy. Doors open at 4 p.m. on April 25 and competition is at 6 p.m. The state winner moves on to national competition.



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Quick Facts:

- **Personality:** Affectionate, chatty, and full of charm
- **Loves:** Attention, mealtime (she's not picky!), and being adored
- **Other cats:** Does just fine, but happy as your one-and-only
- **Special note:** Missing a front canine... adds character, not complications!

Phoebe may be missing a tooth, but it doesn't slow her down one bit—she eats like a champ and lives life with enthusiasm. She's an easygoing companion who just wants a cozy home, a loving human, and plenty of well-deserved spoiling.

If your home could use a little more love (and a little more personality), Phoebe is ready to move right in and make herself the center of your world.

Come meet Phoebe... She's ready to steal your heart.

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Van Buren Township fire destroys mobile home of mother, son

Jessica Kaba and her son Eddie, 13, woke up just before 7:30 a.m., Saturday, April 11, to the sounds of a fire in their home on Roger Avenue in Town and Country Mobile Home Estates.

The park is located at 51005 Old Michigan Ave. in Van Buren Township, said fire chief David McNally, who was out of state at the time.

The two made it out of the home along with one of their cats. Their other cats were unaccounted for.

The home was destroyed and, reportedly, the mother and son escaped with just the

clothes on their backs. They suffered some smoke inhalation so they were taken to a hospital for treatment. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help them with basic needs.

Jessica Kaba is employed as an administrative assistant at Rawsonville Elementary School.

Deputy fire chief Andy Lenaghan said the cause of the fire is under investigation, but it has been determined where it started. He said there was slight damage to the trailers on two sides of the burning home, with some melted siding.

He said the department got the call between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. and they extinguished the blaze. Crews left the scene about 10 a.m. Deputy Lenaghan said Van Buren Township Fire Department was assisted by fire departments from Ypsilanti Township and Canton Township.

"The guys did a real good job," he said of the way the fire fighters hooked up the hoses.

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, April 16** – Girls JV Tennis vs. Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m.; Girls Soccer vs. John Glenn, JV 5:30 p.m. and Varsity 7 p.m.

• **Friday, April 17** – V Softball vs. Divine Child, 4 p.m.

• **Saturday, April 18** – JV Baseball vs. Airport, 11 a.m.

• **Monday, April 20** – JV Baseball vs. Livonia Churchill, 4:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Brighton, 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday, April 21** – Boys and Girls Varsity Track vs. Livonia Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.

• **Wednesday, April 22** – Varsity Softball vs. Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.; Varsity Baseball vs. Livonia Churchill, 4:30 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski, Athletic Secretary
Belleville High School

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Belleville council sells Savage Rd. property to neighbor for \$300,000

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on April 7, the Belleville City Council accepted the \$300,000 cash offer from Savah Rabiah of Blue Sky Cannabis Co. for the property at 420 Savage Rd. the city was selling next door to his business.

Rabiah's purchase offer was without concessions, but a 3' x 20' piece of property between the parklands and the city's DPW yard was discussed. It once was a landlocked easement and part of the city's old skatepark was on that property.

Rabiah bought his property in 2017 with that extra piece attached. He offered that the city would be able to use that property.

Moving the Mitten broker/owner Therese Antonelli reported that the city could get a survey but that would cost from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

She said the other two offers on the property were \$125,000 cash with no contingencies from Davenport Brothers and \$400,000 with contingencies from Rajan Sucariya, that involved site plan approval.

When the sale first came up on the agenda at the meeting, mayor pro-tem Kelly Bates was presiding because the mayor was absent. Also, councilman Jeremiah Beebe was late and not yet present. That left three sitting on the council.

Mayor-pro-tem Bates put the agenda item aside until Beebe could arrive after she could not get a motion to postpone to another meeting so the mayor could be present and there was a full council. The bare quorum at that point was Bates and council members Randy Priest and Julie Kissel.

When Beebe arrived at 6:44 for the 6:30 p.m. meeting, Bates reintroduced the property sale.

She said she would like to postpone the vote until the mayor could be present, as the council had done in the past on other important items so a full council could make the decision.

But, councilwoman Kissel insisted on voting on it immediately.

Interim city manager Steve Jones pointed out the Rabiah offer was the highest with no contingencies.

The vote to accept the \$300,000 offer was unanimous.

Jones said that amount would be put into the city treasury and the land would bring in taxes. It was noted that this was just the sale of the property and the council was not voting on the use of it.

In other business, the council:

- Approved use of Horizon Park on May 12 for dedication of a Wings statue to honor the late Harper Mathis, who died at the age of 15 last year after a battle with brain cancer. High Street will be closed, food trucks allowed, trash barrels placed. A plaque will be installed six feet to the side so it doesn't interfere with people taking pictures of themselves with the statue, which is heat-treated stainless steel wings made by a blacksmith/artist in Sumpter Township. The Mathis family, which lives on High Street, were present at the meeting, along with Chris Donley who raised the \$13,000 and arranged for the sculpture;

- Approved the Hagerman/Poley wedding ceremony at 2 p.m. May 17 at Horizon Park. The mother of the bride said it will be a small, brief wedding;

- Held a public hearing of one minute at which nobody spoke and then approved the second reading and final adoption of the updated Fire Code;

- Approved the FEMA Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public safety director Kris Faull said the county has been working on the plan for the last few years and now it is ready to be adopted;

- Approved a resolution to straighten out mis-numbered resolutions in the records. Clerk/treasurer Briana Papin said deputy clerk Michelle Bellingham found five mis-numbered resolutions in the 2024 records. The city attorney was contacted and the

attorney recommended a transparent and procedurally sound approach, formally amending and re-numbering the affected items;

- Approved unanimously the Waterworth water rate study, at a cost of \$6,500 a year, as proposed at a recent meeting. Plante Moran proposed a water rate study at a flat

rate not to exceed \$18,000;

- Approved a rain garden for the Hillside Cemetery entrance area near the Angel of Hope in cooperation with Van Buren Township. This was proposed by the Huron River Watershed Council. DPW director Nathan Johnson said the only cost to the

(continued on page 13)

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City Council

(continued from page 12)

city would be some drainage pipes;

• Approved a resolution to accept the city attorney's confidential recommendation and reverse a prior FOIA disclosure denial for case No. 26-0684 and authorize release of redacted records consistent with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Director Faull said the police department denied a FOIA, but the prosecutor denied prosecution on that case. The requestor appealed the denial to the head of the city council, as allowed under FOIA, and it was reviewed by the attorney who recommended to grant it with redactions and to reduce the price of the FOIA. Redacted will be personally identifying information of minors, sensitive witness information, and any other exempt material permitted by law;

• Heard Jones say that this could be called "Hell Week" because city hall will be moving to its new location at 330 Charles St. City hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, and also closed on Monday, April 13, and then reopened at its new location on April 14. "It's been a long process ... and it's something to be proud of ... more efficient," Jones said. He said at the new city hall there are added amenities on the police side, such as a bathroom and shower which they never had before. "We're almost there." He praised the work of councilwoman Kissel who has been purging city hall of unneeded items for two and a half years. He said at the April 20 council meeting they will set an open house; and

• Heard Jones comment that the work on North Liberty is expected to be complete in a month and a half.

VBT planners suggest denial of special land use for car wash, restaurant

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After more than an hour of discussion at its regular meeting on April 8, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the township board denial of special land use for a car wash and drive-through restaurant on Belleville Road south of Westlake Apartments.

The Township Board of Trustees will consider the commission's recommendation at an upcoming meeting.

The commission stated the reason for denial was because the plans do not meet requirements in the ordinance.

The preliminary site plan for the project at 10525, 10501, and 10401 Belleville Rd. also was on the agenda for approval. Action on that request was postponed by the commission by a unanimous vote. The site plan request depends on what the township board votes to do with the special land use request. The site plan needs approval of the special land use to move forward.

The project was requested by El Car Wash MI Belleville LLC to construct a 4,640 square foot facility to provide express (automatic) exterior automobile wash services and self-serve vacuuming, along with a 5,667 square foot building comprised of one retail and two restaurant tenant spaces, including one offering drive-through service.

At the public hearing on the special land

(continued on page 15)



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VBT Plan

(continued from page 13)

use request, three people spoke against allowing another car wash on Belleville Road, including Mike Suliman, co-owner and builder of Auto Works car wash nearby on Belleville Road. Another person speaking against the new car wash was a property owner who said his property abuts the project and he had concerns about noise and privacy.

Former Van Buren Township fire chief Brad Traskos, who now lives in Sumpter Township, said he believes there are

enough car washes in Van Buren Township. Later, he questioned whether the fire department's 100' tower truck to reach the commercial building's second story could get in with these plans.

Ron Akers, director of municipal services, said three letters against the project were included in commissioners' packet and commissioners indicated they had read the letters.

Dave Shook of El Car Wash said the company was founded in 2011 in Miami and now has 100 locations. It decided to expand in 2022 and now have five in Michigan and 30% are employee owned. He expects 10 more open soon and 20 by

the end of 2027. He said 90% of the water from the car wash is reused and the business is state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly. He said 40% of the project is open space with landscaping. El is investing \$16 million in the project.

When asked, he said it takes about 90 gallons per car for the car wash and there are from 400 to 500 cars daily. A new right turn lane on northbound Belleville Road is part of the plan.

Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, said there are problems with traffic on Belleville Road and that is not a good location. Others joined her in questions about the traffic

and whether this business -- no matter how good it is -- is in the wrong location.

In other business at the two-and-a-half-hour meeting on April 8, the commission:

- Held a public hearing at which no public spoke on a zoning ordinance text amendment to change the language of approval for prior consecutively approved firework stand/tents. The commission had asked for the change, since groups have had to come before them for the exact same approval for the exact same request, year after year. The commission approved recommending the amendment to the township board. If this is approved by the board, the requests can be approved administratively, if there have been no problems in the past;

- Passed on a 5-1 vote final site plan approval for US Signal Properties, LLC, to continue phased construction of its data center at 9275 Haggerty Rd. The company had complied with the commission's requests on noise protection by putting a sound wall around the chillers, producing a sound study, and getting the rate letter from DTE. Commissioner Jackson Pahle voted no on the motion, after some questions. He has said in the past he is against all data centers;

- Approved an amended site plan for Project Venture (on property owned by Wayne County Airport Authority) at 6845 Denton Rd., which is the land on the north side of Ecorse Road, south of Van Born Road, east of Denton and west of Beck. The amendment added masonry and revised the height of the guardhouse off the main entrance drive by a few inches, changing the footprint. Because of the size expansion it had to come to the commission instead of being administratively approved. The developers were not present because director Akers said it is family owned and this was Passover week;

- Discussed for half an hour the problems developers are having with the Hotel Development Ordinance and its height limitations. I-94 Group and GAV & Associates said they will seek a variance with the Board of Zoning Appeals, as they have had to do at other municipalities throughout the state for their hotel buildings. They plan to build two more

(continued on page 16)



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Belleville planners approve new city Master Plan, send it to council

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on April 9, the Belleville Planning Commission unanimously approved the 2026 city Master Plan and sent it on to the city council for final approval.

This was after a public hearing on the plan at which there were no public comments on the plan. The Independent was the only person in the audience.

Councilwoman Julie Kissel, who as commission vice-chairperson was chairing the meeting, said there were no questions from the public on the final document.

Absent from the meeting were chairman

Jim Courage and commissioners Raytheon Martin and Mark Kowalski. Also absent was interim city manager Steve Jones.

A synopsis of the Master Plan was presented by Andy Aamodt, senior planner at Giffels Webster of Birmingham, and Ava Miller, staff planner at the firm.

They said the Master Plan work kicked off in August of 2024 and finally got to today's public hearing and consideration of final adoption.

Councilwoman Kissel said they will bring the Master Plan to the city council at its April 20 meeting for approval.

Aamodt said state law puts the Master Plan in the hands of the planning commission, but if they want to send it on to the city council that is OK. He said the resolutions of adoption from both the planning commission and the city council will be printed in the Master Plan.

Aamodt said they may not see the Giffels Webster representatives at the council meeting, because their contract is over with the vote of the commission.

It was noted interim city manager Jones, who was absent from this meeting, may want to have them at the council meeting and he could arrange for that, if necessary.

In other business at the half-hour meeting, the commission:

- Heard a report from Kissel on the March subcommittee meeting of the tri-community planning commission. She said the three planning commissions meet together mainly to report on their activities.

(continued on page 17)

VBT Plan

(continued from page 15)

hotels on the North I-94 Service Drive next to the hotels they already own. The township's maximum height for a building is 40'/four stories, but builders using wood frames can only get three stories with the spaces required between floors. The ordinance allows 50' buildings if they put a terrace on the top, but the builders said that causes an insurance problem for them, with the winter weather and winds that blow chairs. Setbacks also are a problem. Planning consultant Lauren Sykes of McKenna Associates and the township staff will look at the ordinance to see if it should be changed;

- Learned the April 22 commission meeting will have on its agenda substation data for the data center project. The commission also was informed that Camping World and Tractor Supply are having grand openings and Chick-fil-A started moving dirt around this week and will take about 20 weeks to complete its construction in front of Menard's on Belleville Road.

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CITY OF BELLEVILLE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 26, 2026 - 6:00 pm
1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. ROLL CALL
Mayor Voigt Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Present
Council Member Kissel Present
Council Member Beebe Present
Council Member Priest Present
3. PRESENTATIONS
a. Water & Sewer Rate Proposal – Plante Moran
i. Brian Camiller from Plante Moran presented their services for water and sewer rate studies.
4. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION
a. Selection of Fire Chief
MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe to approve the recommendation from Public Safety Director Faull to hire John Thiede as the city's Fire Chief.
Motion Carried.
b. Accept Offer on Savage Rd. Property
MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Kissel to authorize Interim City Manager Jones to send the offers to the city's attorney for review.
Motion Carried.
5. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to adjourn at 6:25 PM.
No objections were noted.
Motion Carried.
Respectfully submitted,
Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer
Published: April 16, 2026

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City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 16, 2026 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL
 Mayor Voigt Present
 Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Absent - Excused
 Council Member Kissel Present
 Council Member Beebe Present
 Council Member Priest Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- **Presentations**
 - i. Letter of Commendation – Hazel Worden
 - 1. Letter presented by Public Safety Director Faull.
 - ii. Water Rate Study Proposal – Plante Moran
 - 1. Representative from Plante Moran was not present.
 - iii. Water Rate Study Proposal – Waterworth
 - 1. Paul Barazzuol from Waterworth presented their module that projects water/sewer expenditures versus revenue for the city.
- **Citizen Comments**
 - i. None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve the agenda as presented, with an amendment to add Item G – Dates for City Hall Move.

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - i. March 2, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- **Budget report**
 - i. None.
- **Communications**
 - i. None.
- **Council Follow-up list**
 - i. As of March 12, 2026
- **Police Stats**
 - i. February 2026
- **Fire Stats**
 - i. None.
- **DPW Report**
 - i. As of March 16, 2026
- **Special Events**
 - i. Wedding at Victory Park

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

- a. **Resolution # 26-014 – Changing Polling Location**

MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution # 26-014**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

b. Adoption of Updated Fire Code

- a. First reading of Ordinance # 26-001.

c. Discussion – Budget Timeline

- a. Council assignments to departments:
 - i. Council Member Priest & Council Member Beebe to review Administration budget.
 - ii. Mayor Pro-Tem Bates and Council Member Kissel to review DPW budget.
 - iii. Council Member Kissel and Mayor Voigt to review Public Safety budget.
- b. Department heads expected to meet with assigned Council Members no later than May 4, 2026.
- c. First budget meeting to be held on May 4, 2026.
- d. Departmental budget presentations to take place on May 26, 2026.
- e. Final budget approval and corresponding public hearing to be held on June 1, 2026.
- d. **HydroCorp Commercial Renewal Agreements – Two-Year/Five-Year**

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe

to approve a five-year renewal with HydroCorp, as presented.

Motion Carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe Aye
 Council Member Priest Aye
 Council Member Kissel Aye
 Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

e. Resolution # 26-015 – Bait Shop BORA DORA Permit

MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution # 26-015**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

f. Water & Sewer Rate Study Proposal

- a. Item deferred to future meeting.

g. City Hall Move Dates

a. The dates for the move to 330 Charles St. have been set for Thursday April 9th through Monday April 13th. City offices will be closed during these dates, and will re-open for business on Tuesday, April 14th.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable
- Departmental Expenditures

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$2,500, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe Aye
 Council Member Priest Aye
 Council Member Kissel Aye
 Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

10. INTERIM CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- St. Patrick's Day is tomorrow, with many festivities taking place in town; reminds attendees to be safe.
- The Liberty St. water main replacement project is still ongoing.
- The annual Floppy Bunny event will take place on April 4th, the day before Easter.
- A notice was recently sent out to residents regarding a secondary leaf pickup.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **Mayor Pro-Tem Bates**
 - i. No comments, absent.
- b. **Council Member Beebe**
 - i. It's nice to have DPW fully staffed; welcome Greg Collins and Savannah Karver.
- c. **Council Member Kissel**
 - i. Great job Hazel Worden.
 - ii. Stopped by the DPW yard recently to organize.
 - iii. We are almost in the clear from EGLE for the Liberty St. water main project.
 - iv. Municode is currently in the process of codifying the city's ordinances.
 - v. Pivot Recruitment Services has begun their process for the City Manager position.
- d. **Council Member Priest**
 - i. Echoed Councilman Beebe's comments regarding the DPW.
 - ii. Would like Wayne County to investigate drainage issues in the city.

12. Mayor's Comments

- Welcome Greg Collins and Savannah Karver.
- Attended the Lions Club meeting with Councilmember Kissel. The club is attempting to reestablish itself in the area. The next meeting will be held on March 25th at the Belleville Area District Library.

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- e. Chris Zweng
 - i. Firefighter Zweng presented a letter of concerns to Council, along with his resignation.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to adjourn at 7:49 PM. No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer
 Published: April 16, 2026

Belleville Plan

(continued from page 16)

The subcommittee looks at specific issues. She said Ron Akers, director of municipal services for Van Buren Township, said he would find out about Sumpter Road easements. She said the VBT Water Study report on Belleville Lake will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 30 at the township hall and it may involve a proposed tax. The next joint meeting will be July 29 at Belleville's new city hall;

- Heard Kissel also report that she prepared two stories and both may be in the next *Van Buren Today* magazine. She said she wrote about the joint planning commission meetings and also how to tell where you live, since the 48111 covers three municipalities and residents get confused;

- Heard commissioner Alvis Brigis comment on data centers. He said he finds it interesting that Google is the one behind the Van Buren Township data center because Google has the greenest effort for such facilities nationwide. "Google has shown itself to be the lesser of the evils," he said. He said the water main project

in the city blew out two toilets and other things in a house he owns, but that will be good in the long run since there was nasty sludge in the lines. He also said Hayward's is looking very nice. There is a May 22 event at Diamondback with the "Belleville Three" performing where the Belleville High School Robotics Club will get a portion of the ticket prices, he said. The club will show off its robot there. He also said he wants to draw high-tech drone companies into Belleville to operate. He also proposed turning High Street into a park;

- Heard commissioner John Juriga remind them of the Mayor's Ball on April 25 to benefit Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. He said the Rotary's Cozadd Foundation gave them a grant; and

- Learned the Atwater Bar and Grill, a taco-inspired tequila bar, opened at the former Bayou Grill location on Main Street. It was noted they brought tacos over to the city workers who were moving items from the current city hall to the new city hall.

After the meeting, Kissel gave the commission a tour of the new city hall, where the meeting had been held.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES April 7, 2026

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Kelley, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Frazier. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Zoning Specialist Williams, Municipal Services Coordinator McWilliams, Director of Recreation Gerhart, DDA Director Coburn, Director of IT Barbaza, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Community Services Renaud and an audience of ten.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026, Prepaid List of March 19, 2026, Prepaid List of April 2, 2026, Voucher List of April 7, 2026, Approval of the adoption of Resolution 2026-06: The Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Approval of the reappointments of Helen Wylie, Mary Korgel, and Delores Hogan to the Senior Endowment Committee with terms to expire February 2, 2028. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Supervisor McNamara congratulated the U of M men's basketball team on their national championship, a tornado touched down on the southwest quadrant of Van Buren Township over the weekend and, Trustee Martin presented a Proclamation Recognizing Worker's Memorial

Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve Fishbeck's architectural and engineering design contract for Lakeside Park in an amount of \$1,097,200 plus construction administration costs of \$352,400 from account 401-000-820-000 and to approve Fishbeck's construction management contract for Lakeside Park. Motions Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve Fishbeck for a study of the Township's EQ Basin and approval of a Letter of Understanding with Panattoni regarding the funding of the study. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the first reading of ordinance 04-07-26(1) which is a zoning ordinance amendment to change the maximum cul-de-sac length in site condominium developments. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Martin seconded to approve the first reading of ordinance 04-07-26(2) which is a zoning ordinance amendment to change the zoning regulations pertaining to car wash developments. Motion Carried.

To consider approval of a proposal from Fishbeck for professional engineering services related to the Haggerty Subdivision Sidewalk Ramp Replacement in an amount not to exceed \$69,950. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Comments were made on the format and protocol of open meetings and data centers.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Published: April 16, 2026

To build a better world, start in your own community!

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 310 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, April 5:

0031 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maple Dr.
0048 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
0136 – intrusion alarm, Chatsworth Dr.
0136 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0209 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0841 – intrusion alarm, Laguna Dr.
0920 – vehicle lockout, Denton Rd.
0943 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1035 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.
1235 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1428 – welfare check, Stanley Rd.
1636 – missing person, Beacon Trl.
1654 – parking complaint, Chloe Ct.
1826 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2042 – civil matter, Martz Rd.
2035 – larceny, Rose Blvd.
2133 – shooting, Denton Rd.
2140 – civil matter, Country Walk Ct.
2254 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2348 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2343 – noise complaint, Lake Point Pass
2319 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Buren St.

Monday, April 6:

0121 – threat, Stamford Rd.
0152 – parking complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0158 – parking complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0356 – parking complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
0733 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Woodgrove Dr.
0806 – suicidal person, Haggerty Rd.
0901 – trespassing, Southport Apts.
0848 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0925 – assist citizen, Harbor Ln.
0936 – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.
0944 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1011 – civil matter, Stamford Rd.
1010 – parking complaint, Rayna Ct./Jeremy Rd.
1157 – civil matter, Daisy Blvd.
1237 – fraud, Ecorse Rd.
1336 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.
1346 – assault & battery, Birch Dr.
1424 – parking complaint, Laurelwood Dr.
1541 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1812 – animal complaint, Denton Rd./Beckley Rd.
1821 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1834 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1833 – animal complaint, Patty Ln.
1959 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2145 – animal complaint, Kent Ln.
2152 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd.
2258 – intrusion alarm, Belle Pointe Dr.
2311 – welfare check, Van Born Rd./Sheldon Rd.

Tuesday, April 7:

0027 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0105 – private property impound, Sheldon Rd. / Van Born Rd.
0143 – property check, Michigan Ave.
0407 – intrusion alarm, Riggs Rd.
0459 – suicidal person, Outer Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0813 – intrusion alarm, Christina Ln.
1115 – intrusion alarm, Paloma Dr.
1101 – domestic, Holly Ln.
1128 – intrusion alarm, Pond Bluff Dr.
1300 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1356 – assist other dept., Bog Rd.
1400 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd.
1504 – 911 welfare check, Meadows Cir.
1512 – assist other dept., Revere Dr.
1518 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1546 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
1604 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1612 – fraud, Beacon Trl.
1637 – welfare check, Pebblebrook Dr.
1856 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Grove Rd.
2121 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2323 – property damage accident, W. I-94/Hannan

2326 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dellor St.

Wednesday, April 8:

0029 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0051 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
0058 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0417 – welfare check, E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0933 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1119 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.
1139 – larceny, Savage Rd.
1126 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1139 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1353 – larceny from auto, Wildflower Ct.
1357 – suicidal person, Oak Ln.
1409 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1503 – welfare check, Meadows Ln.
1555 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
1557 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1632 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1703 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1707 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1716 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Grove Rd.
1816 – disorderly, America
1906 – civil matter, E. Adams
2154 – assist fire dept., Gilmore St.
2229 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2250 – parking complaint, Village Green Ln.
2331 – noise complaint, America

Thursday, April 9:

0100 – noise complaint, Purple Sage Ct.
0028 – abandoned auto, Kirkridge Park Dr. / Ecorse Rd.
0116 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0150 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0206 – abandoned auto, Maple Leaf South
0214 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
0222 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
0226 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0228 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
0233 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
0400 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Freeport Ct.
0559 – juvenile complaint, Maple Dr.
xxxx – repossession, E. Walden Dr.
0829 – intrusion alarm, Coca-Cola Dr.
0901 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd. / Parkwood Dr.
1027 – mental, Walden Blvd.
1214 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1312 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
1511 – intrusion alarm, Coca-Cola Dr.
1527 – animal complaint, Sheldon Rd.
1613 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Martinsville Rd.
1622 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1715 – animal complaint, Martz Rd.
1819 – intrusion alarm, Arthur St.
1833 – intrusion alarm, Red Oak Dr.
1903 – abandoned auto, Michigan Ave./Denton
1913 – juvenile complaint, Sylvia Dr.
1924 – welfare check, W. Adams
2026 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2038 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
2049 – traffic offense, Ventura Dr.
2106 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2119 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Belleville
2202 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
2204 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Huron River Dr./Beacon Trl.

Friday, April 10:

0320 – parking complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0415 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Walden Dr.
0650 – welfare check, Denton Rd./Michigan Ave.
xxxx – repossession, Jackson St.
0718 – private property/property damage accident, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0847 – court detail, S. Wayne Rd.
0936 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1038 – warrant arrest, Russell
1127 – fraud, Stonebridge Dr.
1201 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Water's Edge Ln.
1252 – assist fire dept., Linda Vista Ct.
1258 – larceny, Haggerty Rd.
1318 – assist other dept., Westlake Cir.
1412 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1432 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1643 – found property/child, W. Huron River Dr.
1655 – missing person, Westlake Cir.
1710 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1725 – domestic, Lake Point Pass
1825 – civil matter, Van Buren St.
1826 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
1850 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1850 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2056 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd./Jackson St.
2122 – civil matter, Colonial Rd.
2212 – welfare check, S. Woodbury Dr.
2223 – domestic, pinewood Ln.

Saturday, April 11:

0007 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
0033 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Mott/Justine St.
0033 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0108 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
0442 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
0550 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0729 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0734 – assist fire dept., Rogers Ave.
0834 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0923 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1027 – missing person, Walden Blvd.
1253 – animal complaint, Mott
1345 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1417 – animal complaint, Liberty Ln.
1417 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dellor St. / Michigan Ave.
1639 – holdup alarm, Liberty Ln.
1705 – assist fire dept., Hannan Rd.
xxxx – shooting, Hull Rd.
1821 – neighbor trouble, Assembly St.
1752 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
1841 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
1836 – felony assault, Pinewood Ln.
1834 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd./Rolan Meadows Dr.
2042 – threat, Meadows Ln.
1857 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Jackson St.
1903 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maple Dr.
1929 – 911 welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1951 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
2010 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2123 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2154 – animal complaint, Beck Rd./Ayres Ave.
2227 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
2356 – welfare check, Denton Rd.

Also, on this log are 110 traffic stops, 13 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 5:

0027 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0038 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
0134 – domestic, N. Aberdeen Ct.
0833 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1407 – assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.
1723 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
xxxx – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2250 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
Monday, April 6:
0847 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.
1240 – juvenile complaint, Clarence St.
1313 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage Rd.
1837 – mental subject, S. Biggs Ave.
2107 – threat, Loza Ln.
2159 – found property/child, Main St.
Tuesday, April 7:
1024 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1115 – property damage accident, Main St./First
xxxx – repossession, Sumpter Rd.
1506 – welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.
1608 – welfare check, Main St.
1645 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1828 – threat, Main St.

Wednesday, April 8:

1114 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1135 – assist other dept., S. Biggs Ave.
1245 – traffic offense, Main St./First St.
1455 – juvenile complaint, Estrada Dr.
1658 – fraud, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1723 – harassment call, High St.
xxxx – harassment call, High St.
1820 – missing person, Estrada

Thursday, April 9:

2107 – harassment call, Main St.

Friday, April 10:

1500 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
1652 – intrusion alarm, Breakwater Dr.
1806 – threat, Edison Ave.
1937 – threat, Victorian Ln.
2159 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Saturday, April 11:

1345 – larceny, Main St.
1635 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Point Dr.
1659 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.
2223 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
There are 79 reports on this week's log, 41 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 5:

0906 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1254 – death investigation, Redwood St.
1325 – motorist assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1606 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1711 – suspicious vehicle, Wilmot Rd./Willis
1818 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Willow Rd. / Schrock Dr.
1831 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2129 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Clay Rd.
2205 – felony warrant arrest, 22000 bl. Bohn
Monday, April 6:
0715 – carrying concealed weapon violation, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
0719 – 911 hangup, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
0939 – animal complaint, Harris/Martinsville
1057 – 911 hangup, Carriage Ln.
1140 – welfare check, Willis/Rawsonville
1142 – suspicious person, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1154 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1312 – disorderly person, Brookview Dr.
1516 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1703 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
1748 – traffic complaint/hazard, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1906 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1926 – ORV complaint, Elwell Rd./Willow
2117 – 911 hangup, Delaware St.
2252 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, April 7:

0348 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1016 – traffic complaint/hazard, Bemis Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
1058 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
1224 – follow-up investigation, Utah St.
1524 – 911 hangup, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1638 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1819 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1901 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
2104 – 911 hangup, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2133 – 911 hangup, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs
2201 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, April 8:

0647 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
0822 – suspicious circumstance, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
0839 – fire dept. assist, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
1000 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
1146 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1246 – welfare check, Rawsonville/Judd
1330 – suspicious circumstance, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1412 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1446 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1550 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1618 – malicious destruction of property complaint, California St.

(Continued on page 19)

JOIN THE BELLVILLE AREA LIONS CLUB!
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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

JOIN US TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT!

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH
• 6:00 PM

CANTON LIONS CLUB
ROSE'S RESTAURANT
201 N. CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI



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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1622 – 911 hangup, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1717 – suspicious circumstance, Birch Dr.
1728 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1813 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1934 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St. / California St.

2306 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Clark Rd.
2330 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Thursday, April 9:

0007 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0015 – family trouble, Birch Ct.

0053 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0810 – family trouble, Utah St.

0832 – civil matter, Birch Ct.
1646 – welfare check, Washington St.
1730 – follow-up investigation, out of township

1755 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1757 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1816 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

1857 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2202 – felony warrant arrest, out of township
2243 – family trouble, Brookview Dr.

Friday, April 10:

0008 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0823 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

0850 – follow-up investigation, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1028 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1349 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1406 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1423 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1433 – citizen assist, 8700 bl. Rawsonville

1519 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1555 – welfare check, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

1650 – animal complaint, Mulberry Dr.
1708 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1752 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.

1810 – missing person, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1817 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Wilmot
1817 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter

2205 – suspicious circumstance, Virginia St.
2243 – alarm, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
2319 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Saturday, April 11:

0210 – welfare check, Willow/Sumpter
0956 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1032 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.

1105 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Thatcham Ln.
1149 – traffic complaint/hazard, Fenster Ave. / Judd Rd.
1149 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1222 – malicious destruction of property complaint, Mulberry Dr.
1245 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

1442 – harassment complaint, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1625 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Judd Rd. / Haggerty Rd.

1713 – alarm, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1750 – shots fired, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1813 – 911 hangup, Wayside Dr.

1826 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1845 – mental health call, Nevada St.
1948 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.

2019 – K3594 – detail – SU, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2218 – 911 hangup, 17000 bl. Martinsville
2219 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

2243 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
2324 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.

Also on this week's log were 166 patrol checks, 59 traffic stops and nine misc. details.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 16, 17, 18** – “The Addams Family” musical will be performed by Tiger Drama at the Belleville High School Auditorium. Curtain time is 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for those under 18. At the door, through GoFan or cash.

• **Friday, April 17** – Family Feud at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Doors open at 6 p.m., play begins promptly at 7 p.m. Team of up to six players at \$5 each. Bring snacks to share at your table. Drinks can be purchased in the Club Room. Payout determined by number of players. Must be 18 or older to play.

• **Saturday, April 18** – The doors open to the public at 8 a.m. at the new Tractor Supply store at 15455 Sumpter Rd. at the corner of Hull in Van Buren Township. The chamber of commerce will help cut the grand-opening ribbon at a 1 p.m. ceremony.

• **Saturday, April 18** – Sumpter Township Michigan Association of Fire Fighters' pancake breakfast fund-raiser, 9 a.m. to noon, at the fire station, 20550 Sumpter Rd. Breakfast for \$6 includes pancakes, sausage links, juice, coffee. Support your first responders.

• **Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 23, 24, 25** – Annual indoor flea market at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston. It's 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

• **Thursday, April 23** – Democratic Club's Chili Cookoff is at 6 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Dining Hall on Quirk Road in Van Buren Township. All are welcome.

• **Friday, April 24** – Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate Dinner at 5 p.m. and induction ceremony at 7 p.m., all at Belleville High School. Dinners are \$25 cash at the door of the cafeteria. Induction ceremony is in the BHS Auditorium, free entry.

• **Friday, April 24** – Tacos & Margaritas from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. All proceeds supports the Auxiliary.

• **Saturday, April 25** – An elegant Mayor's Ball to benefit Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue is from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Tickets are \$125 per person. Cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Formal attire and masks encouraged. www.friendsofmichigan.org

• **Thursday, April 30** – Van Buren Township Community Open House from 6-8 p.m. at the township hall to discuss the Belleville Lake Water Assessment Project done by Progressive Companies, contracted by the township. The company assessed water quality, surveyed aquatic vegetation, and analyzed stormwater impacts to inform future conservation strategies. This is the township residents' time to view the project findings and provide feedback.

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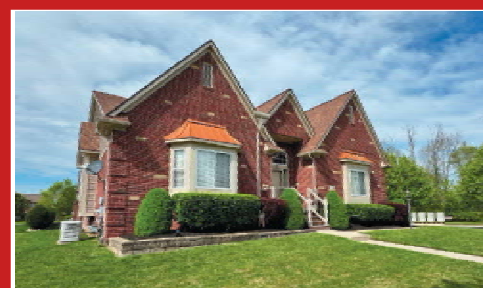
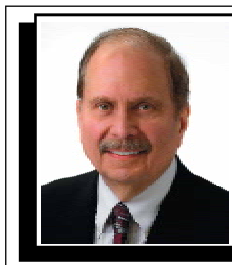
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